

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 858 without my signature.

Existing statute already affords local school boards general control over all aspects of their interscholastic athletic policies, programs, and activities. Decisions regarding athletic teams names, nicknames or mascots should be retained at the local level.

At a time when we should all be working together to increase the academic achievement of all California's students, adding another non-academic state administrative requirement for schools to comply with takes more focus away from getting kids to learn at the highest levels.

For these reasons, I am unable to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger